

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>November 21, 2019</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The monthly meeting of the Natick Garden Club will be held on Thursday <b>November 21, 2019,</b> <b>at 6:30 pm at the</b> <b>Morse Institute Library</b> <b>14 E. Central St.</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.natickgardenclub.org">www.natickgardenclub.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">November 2019</p>

## President's Letter

Hello All!

Happy November!

There's been lots of Garden Club activity already this month! Putting greens in the planters downtown and at the library, participating in the Morse Institute's first Art in Bloom, going on an amazing trip to the Smith greenhouses and museum and a Board of Gardeners meeting. Congratulations and thank you to all who coordinated, participated and enjoyed these events. It is a time for gratitude and thanksgiving and I have deep appreciation for all of you. Our club is a community of individuals engaged in a shared interest - to Beautify, Revitalize and Preserve for Nature's Sake - and there's lots of collaboration to make everything go smoothly.

For those of you who signed up, I look forward to seeing you at this month's program to create a beautiful arrangement! And, I wish all of you a healthy and happy Thanksgiving. There is much to be grateful for.

Laurie Adelstein

President, 2019-2020

## Dates to Remember:

- Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> November meeting – Create a holiday arrangement
- Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Festival of Trees at MassHort opens
- Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> Holiday decorating at Morse Institute Library
- Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Potluck followed by speaker; **NOTE 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**
- Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> Holiday UN-decorating at Morse Institute Library
- Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> **SAVE THE DATE:** Flora in Winter at Worcester Art Museum

## November Program

### **Shirley Fitzpatrick and Maggie Rezendes – *Make a Holiday Arrangement!***

They're back!!!! NGC's own flower arrangers extraordinaire, Shirley Fitzpatrick and Maggie Keene Rezendes will once again guide us step-by-step through the creation of a unique holiday arrangement to take home. Participants each contributed \$10 toward the cost of supplies, and everything, including containers will be provided.

## October Meeting

### **Betsy Szymczak – *Gardening with Dahlias***

October's guest speaker was our own Betsy Szymczak, who delighted us with her knowledge and wit, and proved her gardening skill with beautiful arrangements raffled off for the benefit of the club. A true academic, she is retired from a career in microbiology and is passionate about teaching. Betsy's informative handouts are attached, but here are some highlights noted from your friendly newsletter editors:

- open center dahlias are amazing bee magnets
- plant for full sun, morning preferred, and do NOT over water like tomatoes when you first plant
- there are certain varieties that do not need to be staked, but if you do need to stake do that early
- if you choose to overwinter there are several methods for storing tubers. Betsy showed us her trusty set up of a styrofoam cooler, clothespins, ziploc and vermiculite (she pins the bags open to one another and then puts them in the cooler)
- proven winner dahlias are often short and can be good container plants

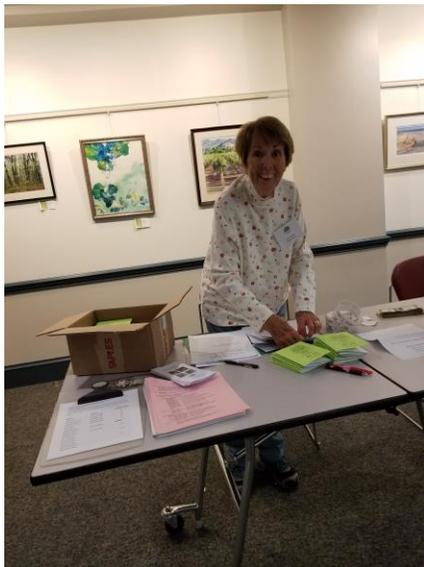


The most beautiful dahlias  
of the year



are the last ones you pick  
before frost.

Joseph Tychonievich







## **News, Notes, and Upcoming Events**

### **Northampton Garden Trip**

Our trip to Smith College was full of beautiful floral displays and world class art!

On a grey November 7, 26 club members departed in a caravan of six cars to spend the day in Northampton, MA. As the photos prove, the Fall Chrysanthemum exhibit at Smith College was beautiful, showcasing many unusual chrysanthemums. We then continued through the many connecting lush tropical green houses before walking across campus to the Smith College Art Museum. We were all amazed at the incredible art collection and had to tear ourselves away in order to be on time for our lunch reservation. Before we departed the museum, the staff suggested that the bathrooms were not to be missed. They were probably the most artistic bathrooms we have ever seen! At Sylvester's the extremely accommodating staff served our very large group very fine food while we enjoyed stimulating conversation.

A very big thank you to our drivers Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Rosalind Forber, Joyce Hannaford, Ann Karan and Lucy Morris.

Attending the trip were Linda Cain, Elizabeth Carroll, Martha Coleman, Pat Collins, Jean Egerhei, Shirley Fitzpatrick, Monica Foley, Rosalind Forber, Ann Freeman, Rhea Gallagher, Lillian Graffam, Joyce Hannaford, Marianne Hedin, Sibby Hill, Ann Katan, Connie Lane, Marilyn Lustig, Sue Mandel, Mary Meehan, Lucy Morris, Joanne Rampe, Carol Salo, Marci Sapers, Susan Shipman, Geri Wadness, and Carolyn Wirth.

The trip was a great success and many members are planning on going back to spend more time in the greenhouses and the art museum.



## **Board of Gardeners meeting**

The Board of Gardeners met on **November 7<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 pm in Community Room in the lower level of the Morse Institute Library. The following members attended: Laurie Adelstein *President*, Martha Coleman, *Past President*, Anne Marie MacKinnon *Treasurer*, Catherine Clifford *Membership and Newsletter*, Sue Mandell *Facebook and Membership Book*, Linda Lentz *Natick Days*, Kate Grzesiuk *Publicity and Newsletter*, Lillian Graffam *Annual Dinner*, Elizabeth Carroll, *Downtown Planting*, Helen Johnson, *Membership and Downtown Planting*, Linda Vitagliano, *Webmaster*, Rosalind Forber *Secretary*. Among the items discussed were: a review of the by-laws; open positions on the board; and if and how the club can support the town's sustainability initiatives.

## **Greening Natick Center:**

On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, two teams of volunteers, one at the library led by Terry Fitzgibbons, the other at the bridge and downtown led by Helen Johnson, did a terrific job 'dressing' Natick center for the holidays in seasonal greens. Helen and an advance team had previously attached the garland to the downtown planters for which Sunday's team was grateful, given the temperature and frozen soil. Many thanks to the library team of Doris Fina, Marianne Hedin, Debbie Thompson, Carolyn Wirth, and Sibby Hill and the downtown team of Linda Cain, Catherine Clifford, Sue Mandell, Lucy Morris, Deanne Shaffer, Geri Wadness and Marie Williams. Thanks too, to all who contributed greens, both pruned and purchased, who waded into the towers of cuttings at the recycle center, and who gathered berries by the roadside. The containers look wonderful!





**Art in Bloom:**

An enthusiastic group of NGC members lent their considerable talents to a partnership with the Natick Center Cultural District on Saturday with their interpretations of artist-in-residence Kira Seamon's photography. Linda Cain, Jean Egerhei, Monica Foley, Lianne Glenn, Lillian Graffam, Kate Grzesiuk, Melanie Harvey, Sue Mandell, Doreen O'Connor, and Barbara Tosches participated in Art in Bloom, on display this past Sunday at the Morse Library. Kira drew her inspiration from travels in Peru, and also kaleidoscope photography. Flowers were provided by Stop and Shop, Wegman's and Roche Bros. Art in Bloom provided a wonderful respite from the cold for members to enjoy the arrangements, nibble on chocolate and listen to gorgeous music played by Walnut Hill students.





## **Mark Your Calendars for These Natick Garden Club activities...**

### **Membership book**

The **2019-2020 NGC Membership book** will again be available at the November meeting. If you didn't come to the October meeting, be sure to pick yours up at the desk when you sign in and pick up your name tag. And thank Sue Mandell for a terrific job.

### **2020 UMass Garden Calendar**

If you ordered one or more calendars, see Catherine at the meeting. Our bulk order brought the price down to \$10, a savings of \$4 over the single calendar price. If you won't be at the meeting, and can't make arrangements for a friend to pick up your calendar, call or text Catherine at 978-808-2950, or email at c.clifford90@comcast.net.

### **Library Holiday Decorating**

On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Monday after Thanksgiving, we will put up the decorations and decorate the giving tree. We'll take down the decorations on Thursday, **January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We start at 9am on both days and try to be finished by 10am.

## **And for These Events of Interest**

- **MassHort Festival of Trees: November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Ellen Yetman has once again created the club's entry in this annual MassHort fundraiser.
- **Framingham Garden Club – Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Greens Sale, 9 a.m.-3.p.m.
- **Needham Garden Club Wreath, Arrangement, and Gently Used Jewelry Sale - Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, 9 a.m. to 1p.m. Needham Congregational Church, 1180 Great Plain Ave. Proceeds to benefit Community Outreach and Scholarships, (Look for Monica Foley there!)
- **Hopkinton Garden Club – Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Greens Sale 10 a.m – 2 p.m
- **Westborough Garden Club – Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Boutique & Design presentation 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Other Seasonal Events -see Jana Milbocker's blog for a terrific list of places to go and things to see now and through the holidays. <http://www.enchantedgardensdesign.com/blog/>

## **Check these websites for events, classes and workshops of interest.....**

- Arnold Arboretum <https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>
- Garden Club Federation of MA <https://www.gcfm.org/schools>
- Garden in the Woods aka Native Plant Trust <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/education/>
- Mass Horticultural Society <https://www.masshort.org/Events>
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden <http://www.towerhillbg.org/index.php/visit/what-s-happening/events-calendar/>

## Reminders:

- Vice President Jean Egerhei is now the contact for the NGC Sunshine Fund. If you know of a member who should receive a card from us, (illness, bereavement) please let Jean know at [jegerhei@gmail.com](mailto:jegerhei@gmail.com) or 508-655-7916.
- Recycle gardening books, magazines, or catalogs you no longer want by bringing them to the meeting to pass on to club members, or to put in the library magazine swap rack.
- Send photos of any and all club activities and events for inclusion in the newsletter to [c.clifford90@comcast.net](mailto:c.clifford90@comcast.net)

## Useful link(s):

- The UMass Extension Gardener monthly e-Newsletter *Clippings* is always worth reading. You can always read it here: <https://ag.umass.edu/resources/home-lawn-garden/newsletters> And you can subscribe at: <https://extension.umass.edu/landscape/home-garden-email-list>
- You can always read the latest issue of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts newsletter *The Mayflower* online at: [Mayflower](#)
- Natick is lucky to have both town employees and dedicated citizens actively working on sustainability initiatives, many of which align with our Club's mission to "beautify, revitalize and preserve.... for nature's sake." Please take a moment to click over to the Sustainability website <https://www.natickma.gov/964/Sustainability> where you can subscribe to a newsletter or read back issues. Or follow their efforts on <https://www.facebook.com/sustainablenatick>

## Members' Travels:

Separate appendix coming soon. Note: you do not have to have traveled far, we are always happy to have photos of your visits to local horticultural places as well as from more distant venues – we publish these to inform as well as inspire each other. If there is a great garden spot in Waltham for example, I, for one want to know about it! As always, send your photos to [c.clifford90@comcast.net](mailto:c.clifford90@comcast.net)

*Thanks to Laurie Adelstein, Elizabeth Carroll, Doris Fina, Monica Foley, Sue Mandell, Susan Shipman, Sheila Tiberio, and Carolyn Wirth for their contributions of content and photographs to this issue.*

*Catherine Clifford & Kate Grzesiuk*